



March / April 2013

The Dredging *Link*

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partnership at Masonville Cove

An exciting partnership, announced in 2012, has sprung to life at Masonville Cove along the Patapsco River. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is now actively at work with the MPA and other partners to continue transforming this once-abused shoreline into an environmental and community treasure.

MPA launched the restoration, including construction of a popular new environmental education center, as a mitigation and community enhancement project adjacent to the Masonville dredged material placement site.

The FWS views Masonville as an important urban wildlife refuge. Genevieve LaRouche, field supervisor for the FWS Chesapeake Bay Field Office, said that Masonville is very important to migratory birds.

"The habitats and food sources make protected areas like this an oasis for nesting and wintering waterfowl, waterbirds, and songbirds," LaRouche said. "We believe that Masonville has the potential to be a great rookery – a place where herons and egrets nest in treetops. That would be a beautiful sight."

Staff from the Chesapeake Bay Field Office and Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge are lending expertise in habitat management, visitor services, and youth education.

In March, FWS delivered a long-term wildlife management plan that identifies important species, along with goals and strategies for attracting them to the site and specific techniques for discouraging undesirable species. The agency has installed one osprey platform at Masonville and will install another this spring.



Outreach is also an FWS specialty. Staff spent several days at Masonville to review visitor services and recommend ways to improve the visitor experience.

To engage youth, they worked with the Student Conservation Organization to offer two summer internships for students. The paid positions include valuable experiences at Masonville Cove, the Chesapeake Bay Field Office, Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge, and MPA dredged material placement sites.

Continued on the next page...



Gloria Nelson Honored

The DMMP's own Gloria Nelson, committee member extraordinaire, was recently honored by Baltimore County as their "Woman of the Year." She received the award on March 21st in the Baltimore County Council chambers in Towson.

Gloria represents Turner Station on both the Citizens Advisory Committee and the Harbor Team. These committees are composed of citizens, local government representatives, and stakeholders who devote their time as volunteers to offer perspectives and advice to the DMMP's principals. Gloria has served on the Citizens Advisory Committee since 2006 and on the Harbor Team since 2003.

Gloria also sits on the Community Working Group for Chrome Ore Processing Residue (COPR), where she acts as a community liaison to the MPA and Honeywell, again representing Turner Station. Part of the Dundalk Marine Terminal has COPR under the blacktop. The Allied Chemical Company placed the material there many years ago from their chrome processing plant in the inner harbor. At the time, the residue was considered good fill material and was placed in many locations around the harbor. Since then it has become apparent that some forms of chromium are toxic. Honeywell, the successor company to Allied, has engaged in aggressive clean-up efforts. The community working group represents the neighborhoods around the Dundalk Marine Terminal.

Congratulations to Gloria for all her work on behalf of Maryland's dredging program!



FWS funding will also help adapt the "Fishing in Schools" program to an urban setting and eventually create partnerships between Masonville Cove and three local high schools.



In the future, this partnership could lead to important national recognition. The agency, already known for its National Wildlife Refuge system, hopes to establish a new system of refuges in urban settings. In February, the Chesapeake Bay Field Office recommended that Masonville Cove be among the first to earn this designation.

"For our agency and more importantly, our conservation mission, to remain relevant, we need to invest in these urban areas and hopefully inspire folks to believe in wildlife conservation as much as we do," LaRouche said.

GreenPort is Live!

MPA has recently redesigned section of its website. Check out GreenPort – highlighting the ways in which MPA and its partners secure the Port's place as a center of sustainable, "green" business.

The site features descriptions of water and air initiatives that are reducing pollution, as well as community activities through which port employees and businesses help plant trees, clean up streambanks, and conduct other projects that enhance the local environment.

One of the most exciting sections of GreenPort focuses on energy conservation. MPA has initiated many activities to reduce its use of energy at the World Trade Center and at its facilities on the terminals. For example, solar panels now adorn the roofs of the cruise terminal and the South Locust Point terminal, generating significant savings as well as clean energy. At the World Trade Center, lighting upgrades and a new heating/cooling system are saving both energy and money. The MPA's many energy conservation measures demonstrate again that being "green" is good for the environment and good for business.

Look for GreenPort on MPA's webpage at www.marylandports.com and click on the [GreenPort](#) icon in the upper left section of the main page.

Upcoming Events

May 4th Cox Creek/Swan Creek Open House

10:00 am – 2:00 pm (Bird Walk at 7:00 am)

Cox Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility

1000 Frankfurst Avenue

Baltimore, MD 21226

Contact: Katrina Jones at kjones1@marylandports.com or 410-385-4438

May 18th Pearce Creek Open House

1:00-3:00 pm

Pearce Creek dredged material containment facility, Pond Neck Road, Earleville, MD 21919.

Contact: David Blazer at dblazer@marylandports.com or 410-385-4465